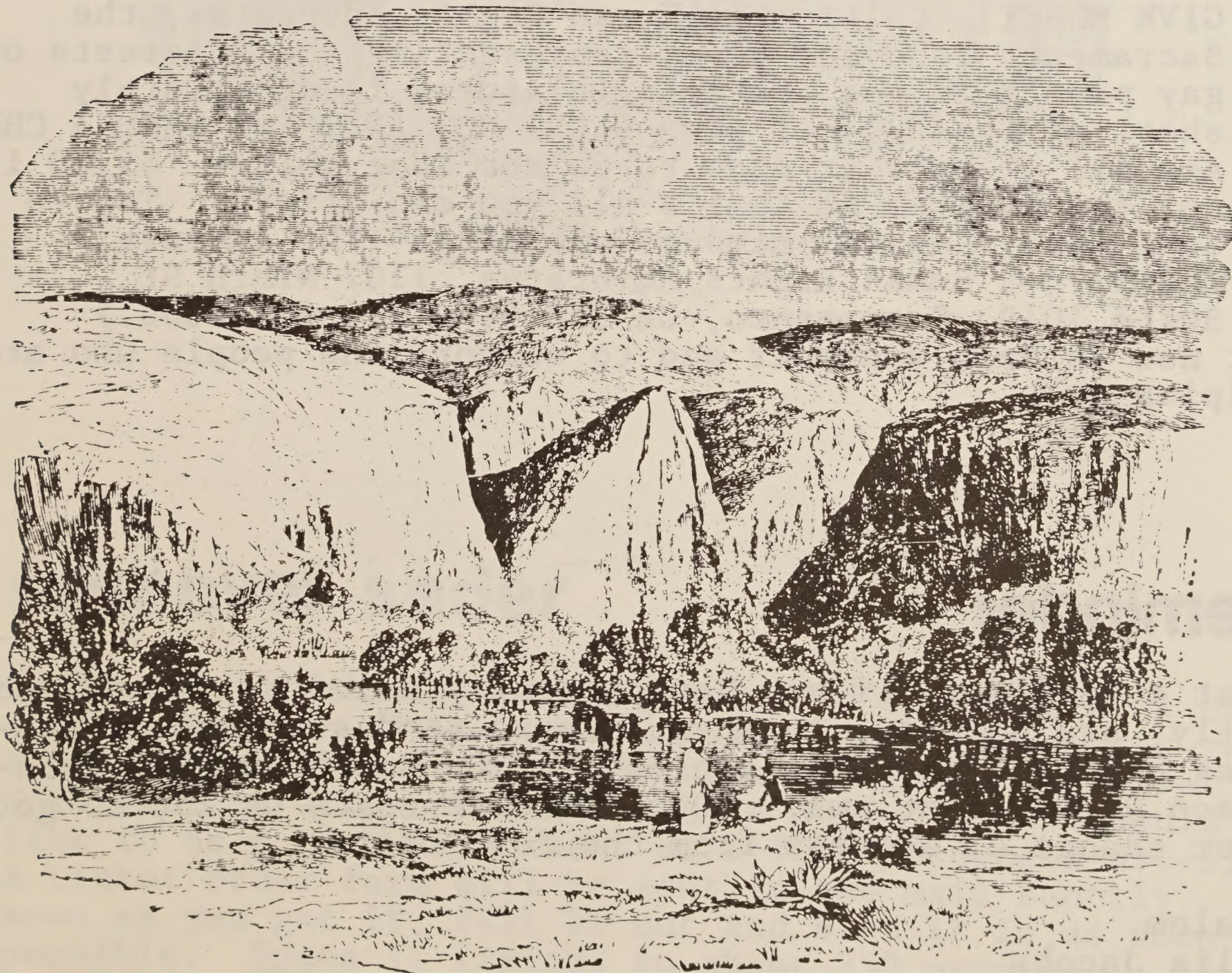


פראשארד

SHA'AR ZAHAV

שער זהב

5739 MAR 1979



BANKS OF THE JORDAN.

GAY CIVIL RIGHTS DEPEND ON YOU!!!

All of you probably know that Assemblyman Art Agnos and Senator Milton Marks have introduced bills into the California Legislature (A.B.1 and S.B.3) which would extend the coverage of the California Fair Employment Practices Act to gay people. Although similar legislation has been presented to the legislature before, there is a real chance that it will pass this year. Governor Brown and Speaker McCarthy have both endorsed passage of these bills. Ultimately, However their passage depends on YOU! There are two things you can do to help us win this struggle:

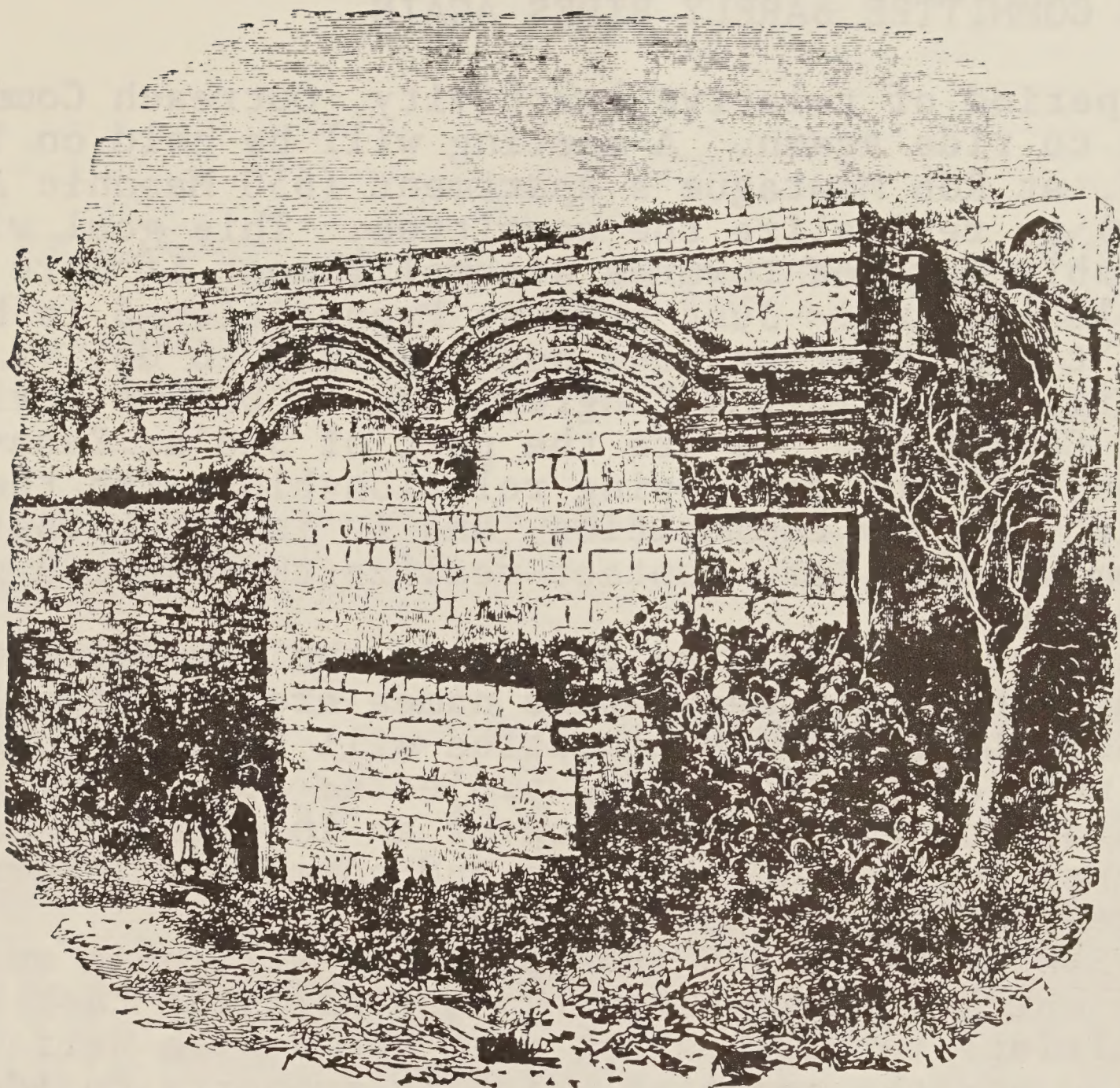
1. WRITE YOUR ASSEMBLYMAN AND STATE SENATOR, URGING THEM TO VOTE "YES" ON A.B. 1 and S.B.3. (If you don't know who your representatives are, phone your local public library or registrar of voters.) This is particularly urgent if you live in a suburban or rural area, many legislators from those districts are still undecided. WRITE YOUR LEGISLATORS TODAY!, and urge all of your friends to do the same. Time is of the essence, since the bill could be voted upon at any time.
2. GIVE MONEY! California Human Rights Advocates, the Sacramento lobbying group representing the interests of gay people in the state legislature, is desperately short of funds. SIT DOWN RIGHT NOW AND SEND THEM A CHECK! Ask all of your friends to do the same thing. \$5.00 is not too little, if that's all you can afford. Try to send more, Again, time is pressing. The address: California Human Rights Advocates, 1107 Ninth St., Suite 1019, Sacramento, CA 95814. (916 448-6666.)

Act now to help yourself and to support the people who are helping us!

reminder

Just a reminder, if you have recently moved or, more importantly, are planning to move, please send a change of address card to our Congregation at P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco 94101 right away. Otherwise it costs us 25¢ to get your change of address from the Post Office.

Shalom
Ellis Jacobs



THE GOLDEN GATE.

passover seder

On Thursday April 12, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will have it's second annual Passover seder. As was done last year, the seder will be held on the second night of Passover. This year it will be held in Dovre Hall. If you would like to help with this event call Bill Goldstein 552-5573. A ticket order form will be sent in the mail shortly. As soon as you get it, fill it out and send it in as soon as possible. Space is limited to about 250 persons.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE BARELY RIDES AGAIN

After a period of relative inactivity, Outreach Committee will try to ride again. A meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, at Rob Montague's apartment (650 Masonic Ave #12 929-0162) to revitalize the committee. This goal will be immeasurably farther towards accomplishment if more than two people show up! Just because Proposition 6 is behind us doesn't mean that we have nothing left to do. I particularly urge women in the Congregation to become active on the Outreach Committee: we are the part of Sha'ar Zahav which is responsible for developing relationships with the rest of the Jewish and gay communities, and it is VITAL that those with whom we come into contact realize that Jewish gays come in two sexes!

Specifically, I would like to divide the Committee into the following sub-committees (whose names are tentative):

1. The SOCIAL ACTION sub-committee will take responsibility (for now) of the following projects: Supporting A.B.1, preparation and distribution of an information packet designed for Bay Area rabbis and community leaders, and developing a Speakers Bureau.
2. The FEDERATION LIAISON sub-committee will be a small group which I hope will be co-sexual. Its task will be to initiate formal contact with the Jewish Welfare Federation and the agencies which it supports to identify specific ways the agencies can become relevant to Jews who are gay and means by which the agencies can extend their outreach into the Jewish gay community.
3. The GAY COMMUNITY LIAISON sub-committee will be responsible for Sha'ar Zahav's relationships with other gay groups, religious and secular. In particular, members of this sub-committee should represent the interests of Sha'ar Zahav at Gay Freedom Day Parade and Gay Community Center planning committees. The sub-committee should also work on developing relationships with the other gay religious groups in the area and to find ways in which all of those groups can work together in areas of common concern.

Please attend the March 13 meeting and help to make our Outreach Committee an active force in our congregation and community. We need your commitment and your work!: we are all enjoined to pursue justice, not just talk about it!



THE DEAD SEA NEAR MASADA.

congregation meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the congregation will be held after services on March 2, 1979.

letters to the editor

To the Good People at Sha'ar Zahav:

I just wanted to send you all a note and say thank you for sending me your monthly newsletter.

It's a great feeling of reassurance knowing that a gay, and more over a Jewish Gay, has a place he can turn to.

Being from a conservative family with rigid traditional standards, coming out was a bit of a trauma. I can remember thinking that Jewish boys are just not gay.

Well, I'm proud I'm gay, and I'm proud I'm Jewish. It's nice to know there are others like me.

S.K. Tucson **AZ**

To The Editor:

First, I would like to thank you for the services and Kaddish for Harvey Milk. At that service I picked up the Forward for December.

Second, I would like to say to Sam T. who wrote "Make The Best of Life and Enjoy" that Thomas Jefferson in saying "All men are created equal" did not refer to environment, intellect nor physical inheritance.

Thomas Jefferson said that the highest human faculty, the moral sense, is absolutely equal in everyone, which makes man different from the rest of the animal kingdom. Therefore all men are created equal. Jefferson did not say, however, that we all use our moral sense equally. But it is true we all have it.

Sincerely W. T. (Pleasant Hill, CA).



ABRAHAM'S OAK, NEAR HEBRON.

To the Editor:

There is a question I would greatly appreciate some of women members of the congregation answering. Where are the older lesbians in our shul?

I ask because the age bracket of those I see attending is from 19 to 32. With the men it seems to range from 18 to the middle sixties. It seems to me that a greater chronological spectrum among the women would diminish some of things being said to the older men by a few of the feminists among us, in total sincerity of course. A few helped the early women's movement by doing such things as helping found the Daughters of Bilitis. It truly is not pleasant for such a person to be told with considerable hostility "I have stood a great deal from the men in the congregation. You have a great deal to learn." It's especially disconcerting when it's done by persons who weren't even alive when one first commenced working for the rights of gay men and lesbians. Once again, where are the older lesbians of forty and up? They're an urgently needed complement in our congregation.

Jordan Lee

yom hashoa

On Monday, April 23rd, the second annual community-wide Yom Hashoa Observance will take place at Congregation Emanu-El at 8:00 in the evening.

This year Israel's famous poet Abba Kovner will be our special guest. He was the leader of the Vilna resistance during World War II. Besides being a poet in Israel, he is the leader of a kibbutz and recently was the creator of the concepts implemented at the new diaspora museum in Israel, Beth Hatfutsot.

We hope that every organization will cooperate in this community endeavor and will make sure that no other events are scheduled for the evening of April 23rd. We are also hopeful that you will encourage your membership to attend. Last year's observance was a memorable occasion and this year it promises to be even more notable.

Yours truly,
Rabbi William Dalin

EDUCATION SURVEY

Do any of the following provocative course descriptions arouse your appetite for learning?

- IF THERE'S A DOT IN THIS SQUIGGLE, IT CAN'T BE A LAMED: an introduction to the reading of hebrew
- KUGEL FOR THE MASSES: an introduction to Jewish cooking
- HAVE I GOT A BOOK FOR YOU: a discussion group centering on modern Jewish writing

Whatever your level of enthusiasm for the particular courses described above, the Education Committee would like to sample your opinion on the type of learning experience that you, as student or teacher, desire. We earnestly implore you to answer the questions below and return them to Sha'ar Zahav, P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco 94101.

I. I am interested in courses, seminars, workshops, or discussion groups related to:

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrew | <input type="checkbox"/> Political/social action | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kabala | <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish literature | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish history | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal growth | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish culture | <input type="checkbox"/> Folk dancing/music | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy & Ethics | <input type="checkbox"/> Judaism & gay people | _____ |

II. I would like to teach, lead, facilitate, or officiate an educational activity at Sha'ar Zahav on the subject of:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

III. The types of class formats I like are:

- ☐ Weekly classes with open-ended termination date
- ☐ Weekly class of 4-6 week duration
- ☐ One-day workshops
- ☐ Other:

If you want to talk more about an education program for Sha'ar Zahav, please call Mike Zimmerman at 647-6344.

The FORWARD needs your articles. Anybody who would like to write a periodic column or just a single article of general interest to the congregation for publication in the FORWARD, please contact me. The FORWARD and the congregation will be most appreciative.

Ellis J.

treasurer's report

A comprehensive Treasurer's Report will be made at the Congregational Meeting on March 2, 1979. Until then, Shalom.

Ron Lezell



THE TEMPLE AREA AND MOUNT OF OLIVES FROM THE CITY WALL.

AN OPEN LETTER

Dear Va'ad and members of Sha'ar Zahav:

This is to advise you that effective Sunday Feb. 4, 1979 Lauren Meshel, Chairperson on the education committee, Sandy Lofchie, Co-chairperson of the membership committee, and Sarah Comerchero, Co-leader of Sha'ar Zahav are officially vacating their respective offices. This is a decision by all of us that came about after much self and group examination, time, energy, and painstaking deliberations. All three of us became active in Sha'ar Zahav at approximately the same time and have been on the Va'ad since its inception.

We came to Sah'ar Zahav looking for a comfortable non-oppressive environment, to integrate our lesbian lifestyles with our judaism. All of us felt great enthusiasm and joy to find that such a space existed. We chose to commit our time and our energy to help shape this space into something where, as jewish lesbians, we could share our religious and political beliefs with other like minded men and women and channel our activism in these areas in an organized, harmonious atmosphere. Although we realize that a certain amount of disharmony and tension is part of the growth process of any organization, we feel that Sha'ar Zahav has suffered an undo amount of same. We attribute a large part of the tension to the sexism and classism we have encountered and struggled with over this last year and a half. We feel that on many occasions the men of Sha'ar Zahav have adopted patronizing and condescending attitudes toward the women and have not given credence to our criticisms. Further it has become evident in recent months that the women are viewed not as individuals, but rather as a group with some kind of collective mentality and one political mind. Criticism which originally was intended to be constructive and useful toward positive changes was generally met with either defensiveness or silence; an unwillingness to deal with any of the issues at hand. Often too, there have been instances where some people have felt passionately about certain issues and/or situations. When we have, at times, expressed those passionate feelings in passionate ways we encountered tremendous resistance from most of the men. Business was to come first, no matter how shakey our own internal structure might be. And the business was endless, never truly allowing sufficient time for dialogue that had no dollar and cents solutions. Obvious concessions, such as desexing the liturgy do not go far enough in matters where a deeper support is needed. Often on a one to one basis individual men have offered their support and expressed great caring. However, within the context of a group discussions or meetings no real support was forthcoming and no real caring evident.

We have also experienced a lack of awareness in another crucial area as well. Time and again material considerations have taken precedence over spiritual ones, such as the desire of certain Va'ad members to expand membership rather than attempt to properly fulfill our spiritual and communal obligations first to those who are already members. Building an ark is a worthy goal, but while this ark is being planned for and constructed we could have been touching and using our Torah, deriving some joy from having it in our midst. Instead it is locked away, unseen by most of us.

Finally, we feel that there are many problems inherent in Judaism itself. A patriarchal religion with strongly sexist traditions is difficult to change, but change it must. At least for us and people like us. We are Jews. This is our heritage as much as anyones, and one which is central to our lives. But we feel that Judaism need not in fact must not become unyielding and unresponsive to the world as it is today. Just as we as lesbians and gay men have claimed our right to fully participate as Jews, so must women claim that right, even at the risk of upsetting ancient traditions if those traditions oppress us today. The traditions we practice were once new and we too can create new traditions out of our needs and experiences, and with the same love as was done by our forebearers.

For our part we are now seeking smaller groups of Jewish women with which to share our common goals and experiences in order to create a more supportave atmosphere. As far as Sha'ar Zahav is comcerned it is going in a direction different from our own and is no longer meeting our needs. Although we realize it might be too late for us to reconcile our differences with you, here are some suggestions that we hope will enable you to work with other women in the future:

1. Retreats and sessions on a periodic basis at which time consciousness raising groups between women and men can be held.
2. Listen to the women's criticisms and take them seriously. Empathize.
3. Be open to and seek to create alternative and non traditional shabbat experiences.
4. Take stronger positions on political issues that relate to the homosexual and/or jewish community and beyond
5. Make special efforts to understand any imbalances and initiate action to offset these, i.e. singing in a higher key and educating others in hebrew, songs, etc.
6. Educate yourselves.

Lauren D. Meshel
Sandy Lofchie
Sarah Comerchero

Note:

After the letter of resignation from the departing Va'ad members was read, a Resolution was passed expressing regret at their resignation and encouraging them to remain active in the congregation.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES THE WORLD OVER

The city of Prague was once one of the great centers of Jewish life and culture in Europe. Today, after the Holocaust, the Jewish presence remains, but it is more a tragic memory than a living force. Jews have lived in what is now Czechoslovakia for more than 1000 years, and the capital city was once the cultural and administrative center of one of Europe's largest and most active communities. In the Middle Ages, the ghetto was established and the Jewish quarter of Prague became an autonomous municipality within the larger city. The old Jewish Town Hall built at that time still stands, famed for its tower clock with Hebrew numerals. Prague was always known for its beautiful synagogues which were built by affluent associations in various architectural styles. The oldest and most famous of these is the renowned "Altneuschul," constructed in 1270 in the form of an early Gothic fortress. Like so many of the beautiful temples in Prague, this sanctuary is now a museum and only occasionally is a special worship service conducted within its ancient walls.

The magnificent but empty synagogues, the medieval Jewish cemetery, and the handful of 2,500 Jews who live in Prague today are sorrowful remnants of the Czech Jewish community that numbered 300,00 before Hitler. And yet, Jewish life continues and Czech Jewry has even produced a number of newly ordained young rabbis in recent years - links of hope in the chain of an ancient tradition.

Temple Emanu-El



membership

I first became actively involved in Sha'ar Zahav in October 1977, several months after the inception of the congregation and immediately after our first High Holiday services. What a wonderful feeling I had - to be, finally, Jewish and gay at the same time.

From that time until today I have been active and vocal in synagogue affairs, as a congregant and as a member of the Va'ad. To me, and to many of us active in the synagogue, the process of working and developing the organization and structure of the synagogue has been both painful and joyous; at times it didn't seem worth it and at others it made absolute sense.

In spite of all the work, the yelling, the screaming and other manifestations of "Jewish" behavior, one of the greatest joys and pleasures I've derived from this sometimes seemingly doubtful enterprise has been the people I've met, worked with and come to love. I would like to personally express my profound sorrow at the departure of Sarah, Sandy, Loren and Bernard from the Va'ad. They have come to be some of my closest friends and I'll miss them terribly. I hope we never forget the tremendous energy they have given Sha'ar Zahav; they were among those who brought it from nothing to what it is today. I'd like to say a loving thank you to each of you for your help, friendship and trust. To Sandy, particularly, for all her help as co-chair of Membership.

Today Sha'ar Zahav appears to be at a crucial juncture in its growth and development. I urge all persons who are not formally affiliated with the synagogue to become active members and those who are members but have remained inactive to participate actively in shaping the future of the congregation. We cannot make changes or carry forward without the support of an active congregational base.

Please join us - - your input and energy are essential
Roger Gross

purim festival

Due to unfortunate circumstances beyond our control, the Purim Festival scheduled for March 10 had to be cancelled. This is a great disappointment to all of us who were looking forward to fun time.

parent-child nights

As most of you know, many of our congregants are parents. It has been proposed that the parents get together to discuss the possibility that Sha'ar Zahav have a parent-child night on some sort of regular basis. Hopefully many of the parents would bring their children to services on these nights. If you are interested contact Mike Zimmerman 433-0565 (home) or 647-6344 (work), Rachel Wahba (826 - 4326), or Ellis Jacobs 552-6976, or contact any of them at services.

committee dates

Membership Committee

Tuesday March 6, 1979 @ Roger Gross', 1078 Peralta St. Albany. 527-1290 home, 421-9916 work.

Outreach Committee

Tuesday March 13, 1979 @ Rob Montague's, 650 Masonic San Francisco. 929-0162 home.

The Va'ad (Board of Directors) of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav meets on the first Sunday of every month. The meetings are open to all members of the Congregation. If you are interested in attending, contact any Va'ad member for time and place.

Los Angeles
31 January 1979

A special commission recommended yesterday that Conservative Judaism, the largest U.S. branch in the Jewish faith, ordain qualified women as rabbis.

Although the commission recommendation was made in a report to a convention of rabbis here, the decision lies with the faculty senate of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York this spring.

If the faculty senate endorses the findings, as several well-placed officials think it will, the Conservative movement will become part of a remarkably rapid innovation in Jewish tradition during the 1970s.

oneg

Special thanks to the following sponsors:

| | |
|---------|--|
| Jan 26, | Sam Thal |
| Feb 2, | Jerry Moore and Ellis Jacobs; |
| Feb 9, | Tom Rothgiesser and George Lucas in honor of George's brother Ron being here; Roger Gross in honor of his sister's birthday |
| Feb 16, | Bob Ehrenberg in honor of the new members of the congregation |
| Feb 23, | Penny Dachinger in honor of her parent's 33d anniversary, and her brother's engagement; Tony Moore |
| Mar 2, | Ron Lezell |
| Mar 9, | Rob Montague |
| Mar 16, | Burton Tessler in memory of Norm Kramer |
| Mar 30, | Jordan Lee in honor of his birthday |

Onegs are a joy, for not only do they honor someone else or allow everyone to share in your special joy, they also add extra sweetness to the Shabbat. So why not sponsor an oneg. They are inexpensive. Just call Bill Goldstein 552-5573 or see him at services.

programs

The following programs have been arranged by the program committee. All programs will start at the conclusion of evening services. As is readily observable, the speakers are all well known and should be very interesting.

March 23: Earl Raab, Columnist for the Jewish Bulletin.

April 6: David Goodstein, Publisher of the Advocate.

calendar of events

- Mar 2 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
Torah portion, Terumah, Ex. 25:1-27:19
Prophetic reading, Kings 5:26-6:13.
- Mar 9 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
Shabbat Zakhor * Torah portion, Tetzavveh,
Ex. 27:20-30:10. Special reading. Deut.
25:17-19. Special prophetic reading.
- Mar 16 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
Shabbat Parah. * Torah portion, Ki-Tissa,
Ex. 30:11-34:35. Special reading. Num. 19:1-
22. Special prophetic reading. Ezekiel 36:16-
38.
- Mar 23 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
Shabbat ha-Hodesh. * Torah portion, Va-Yakhel -
Pekudei, Ex. 35:1-40:38. Special reading,
Ex. 12:1-20. Special prophetic reading,
Ezekiel 45:16-46:18.
- Mar 30 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
Torah portion, Va-Yikra, Lev. 1:1-5:26,
Prophetic reading, Isaiah 43:21-44:23.
- Apr 6 Evening Services 8:00 p.m.
Shabbat ha-Gadol * Torah portion, Tzav, Lev,
6:1-8:36. Special prophetic reading, Malachi
3:4-24.

All Services at Dovre Hall, 3543 18th Street, San Francisco.

SHA'AR ZAHAV

THE CONGREGATION OF Box 5640 San Francisco, Calif
THE GOLDEN GATE Tel: 626-3131 94101

Reaching out to the Gay Community of the Bay Area